



American Association of  
State Highway and  
Transportation Officials

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Wayne Muri, President  
Chief Engineer  
Missouri Highway  
and Transportation  
Department

Francis B. Francois  
Executive Director

October 20, 1992

RECEIVED

OCT 22 1992

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, Room 239  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Sir or Madame:

Enclosed are an original and nine copies of AASHTO's Motion to Accept Late Reply Comments regarding PR Docket 92-153 concerning Part 90 Fire Call Box Operation in the 72-76 MHz Frequency Band.

Do not hesitate to so inform me should you have further comments or questions regarding this submittal.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Francis B. Francois", is written over a horizontal line.

Francis B. Francois  
Executive Director

FBF:LAM:abm  
Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd 0 + 9  
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**OCT 22 1992**

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of )  
Part 90 Fire Call Box ) PR Docket No. 92-153  
Operations in the 72-76 MHz )  
Frequency Band )

**MOTION TO ACCEPT LATE REPLY COMMENTS**

The public interest is best served by allowing the Commission to be aware of AASHTO's position concerning this important undertaking.

Reply Comments

1. **MRFAC opposes AASHTO's request. It is clearly beyond the scope of this proceeding which is limited to the allocation of additional frequencies for fire call boxes.**

The AASHTO Special Committee on Communications has appointed a task force which was proceeding to draft a petition for rulemaking to amend the Commission's rules by granting eligibility for highway maintenance radio call boxes for additional frequencies in the 72-76 MHz band. Private Radio Docket 92-153 was released on July 22, 1992. This docket addressed the interference to fire call box operation in the 72-76 MHz band caused by higher power co-channel transmitters. This problem exists equally in the highway maintenance radio service. AASHTO contacted representatives of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Municipal Signal Association (IAFC/IMSA) the joint petitioners in this proceeding. IAFC/IMSA did not object to AASHTO's proposal to expand the eligibility for low power call box operations to the Highway Maintenance Radio Service. In fact, IAFC/IMSA has no objection to AASHTO's suggestion to also permit highway call box operations as noted in page one, paragraph two, of their Reply Comments.

2. **Neither other users, nor the public have received legally-required notice of the AASHTO proposal.**

AASHTO contends that the potential benefit of radio call boxes in minimizing the loss of life and property outweighs the merit of an objection based upon a purely procedural regulation.

3. On the merits, MRFAC also has serious reservations regarding the request. Manufacturers are already facing a critical shortage of low power frequencies in many areas for the country....

AASHTO in its comments requested that highway maintenance radio service licensees be permitted to conduct highway call box on a shared basis with the Fire, Forest Products, Special Industrial, Manufacturers and Railroad Radio Services. The frequency coordination requirements for shared frequencies would be observed. This would allow each of the eligible coordinators to comment upon any request by highway maintenance radio service applicants to use the 72-76 MHz frequencies addressed by this proceeding. MRFAC would then have the authority to review each application for operation in the 72-76 MHz band on a "case by case" basis. Thus assuring the protection of the existing users.

4. MRFAC has not opposed fire call box use of the ten (10) low-power mobile frequencies chiefly due to the compelling public interest in adequate fire protection; highway call boxes do not present the same level of urgency. Alternative low-power solutions should be pursued for highway facilities.

MRFAC does not seem to understand the role or importance of highway call boxes. In the state of Florida, call boxes are currently being installed at one mile intervals along the interstate highways. The transmissions are of an analog tone type and are for a duration of not more than 500 milliseconds.

These call boxes provide a means for motorist to summon the services of fire, police and emergency medical personnel in the most expeditious manner. The urgency of such emergency response is no less to occupants of vehicles involved


in chain-reaction or other vehicular incidents than to the inhabitants of single or multiple unit urban dwellings.

MRFAC suggest that alternative low-power solution should be pursued for highway facilities. We agree that such solutions should be utilized where applicable. There are, however, many instances and circumstances where these alternative solutions are not feasible and it is for that reason that AASHTO is requesting that highway maintenance eligibles be allowed to utilize the 72-76 MHz band frequencies on a non-interference basis.

Summary

In closing, we request that the Commission consider and act favorable on these items as it proceeds with this important undertaking.

Respectfully submitted,  
American Association of State  
Highway and Transportation  
Officials, Special Committee on  
Communications

By:   
Francis B. Francois  
Executive Director, American  
Association of State Highway  
and Transportation Officials

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Mary Lou Malzone, do hereby certify that on this 20th day of October, 1992, have caused to be sent by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, copies of the foregoing "Reply Comments", to the following:

William K. Keane  
Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Manufacturer's Radio Frequency  
Advisory Committee (MRFAC)  
1041 Sterling Rd, Suite 106  
Herndon, VA 22070

Special Industrial Radio Service  
1110 N. Glebe Rd  
Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22201

Association of American Railroads  
Communications & Signal Section  
50 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Forest Industries Telecommunications  
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Eugene, OR 97401

  
Mary Lou Malzone